MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: There is a staff of the Accountant Gentral's Office posted in the Transport Department and they are conducting concurrent audit.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: So, is there no necessity for auditing this office?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: No.

Representation from Toddy shop contractors.

124. ❋ **MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL** (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received representation from toddy shop contractors in the State relating to the loss they are put to on account of the distroyiug of tapping trees by political agitators;

(*b*) whether they have made any enquiry into the complaints of these contractors: if so, what is the result of that enquiry; and

(*c*) what steps, if any, they have taken to safeguard the interest of these contractors?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. It was found that in certain cases the complaints were true.

(*c*) In deserving cases, the contractors were granted remission of kist.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: With reference to answer to part (*a*) May I know the extent of the relief given.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: Rs. 3,007.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: May I know whether applications are pending?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: There were several applications but they were considered and rejected.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the names of those contractors?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: I cannot give the names of contractors but I can give the names of those shops.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know the number of those shops,

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: 14.

Amalgamation of P. W. D. and Water Works Departments.

125 ❋ **MR. M. KESAVA PANICKAR** (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether eleven acting hands were relieved of their duties from the Water Works Department and none from the P. W. D., at the time of amalgamation of the P. W. D. and the Water Works Departments, dated 16-12-1938;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether some persons so disbanded were seniors to some acting hands in the P. W. D; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

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